

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) A polyimide compound crosslinked with polyamine which is soluble in the solvent containing aprotic polar organic solvent.
2. (Original) The polyimide compound according to claim 1, wherein said polyimide compound is soluble in said solvent containing the aprotic polar organic solvent in a concentration of 5% by mass or more at 25°C.
3. (Currently Amended) The polyimide compound according to ~~claims 1 or 2,~~ claim 2, wherein said polyimide compound is succinimide polymer.
4. (Currently Amended) The polyimide compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3,~~ claim 3, wherein said aprotic polar organic solvent is a solvent containing ~~N,N-dimethylformamide~~ N,N-dimethylformamide and/or sulfolane.
5. (Currently Amended) The polyimide compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4,~~ claim 4, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.

6. (Original) The polyimide compound according to claim 1, wherein said polyimide compound is obtained by dehydration and condensation of amino acid or salt thereof in the presence of polyamine and protonic acid in the solvent containing aprotic polar organic solvent.

7. (Original) The polyimide compound according to claim 6, wherein said aprotic polar organic solvent is a solvent containing N,N-dimethylformamide and/or sulfolane.

8. (Currently Amended) The polyimide compound according to claim 6 ~~or claim 7~~, wherein said protonic acid is hydrochloric acid.

9. (Currently Amended) The polyimide compound according to ~~any one of the claims 6 to 8~~, claim 6, wherein said polyimide compound is succinimide polymer.

10. (Currently Amended) The polyimide compound according to ~~any one of claims 6 to 9~~, claim 6, characterized in that 0.05 to 10 mol% of said polyamine is used with respect to the amount of said amino acid or salt thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) The polyimide compound according to ~~any one of claims 6 to 10~~, claim 6, wherein said polyamine is a lysine or an ornithine.

12. (Currently Amended) A solution containing a polyimide compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic containing a polyamino acid polymer derived from polyimide compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1.

14. (Currently Amended) An external preparation containing a polyamino acid polymer derived from the polyimide compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1.

15. (New) The polyimide compound according to claim 1, wherein said polyimide compound is succinimide polymer.

16. (New) The polyimide compound according to claim 15, wherein said aprotic polar organic solvent is a solvent containing N,N-dimethylformamide and/or sulfolane.

17. (New) The polyimide compound according to claim 2, wherein said aprotic polar organic solvent is a solvent containing N,N-dimethylformamide and/or sulfolane.

18. (New) The polyimide compound according to claim 1, wherein said aprotic polar organic solvent is a solvent containing N,N-dimethylformamide and/or sulfolane.

19. (New) The polyimide compound according to claim 18, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.

20. (New) The polyimide compound according to claim 17, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.

21. (New) The polyimide compound according to claim 16, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.

22. (New) The polyimide compound according to claim 15, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.

23. (New) The polyimide compound according to claim 3, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.

24. (New) The polyimide compound according to claim 2, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.

25. (New) The polyimide compound according to claim 1, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.